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September 30, 2003

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Room TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Guam Cellular and Paging, Inc. d/b/a Saipancell
Petition for ETC Status
CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Madam Secretary:

On behalf of Guam Cellular and Paging, Inc. d/b/a Saipancell ("Saipancell"), we respectfully request that the enclosed letters be included in the above-captioned docket and associated with Saipancell's pending petition for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier ("ETC") for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI").¹

The fifteen (15) enclosed letters were provided by various community members – including the Senate President, the Lieutenant Governor of CNMI, the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan, and several members of the local business community – who believe that having a choice of telecommunications service providers is long overdue in CNMI, and therefore strongly support a grant of Saipancell's Petition.

Saipancell's Petition has been on file for over eighteen (18) months. The company has obtained an FCC license to serve throughout Tinian and Rota so as to obviate the need for service area redefinition.² Service cannot be deployed there unless high-cost support is provided. The only parties harmed by this delay are consumers who are denied the benefits of Saipancell's service.

¹ Guam Cellular and Paging, Inc. d/b/a Saipancell, Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier on the Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, CC Docket No. 96-45 (filed Feb. 19, 2002) ("Petition").

² See Fourth Amendment at p. 2 (filed Jan. 22, 2003).

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We believe the enclosed letters underscore the need for competitive access to high-cost universal service support so that CNMI residents can experience the benefits of competition without further delay. On behalf of Saipancell, we urge the Commission to grant this petition at the earliest possible date.

Sincerely,

/s/ Steven M. Chernoff

David A. LaFuria
Steven M. Chernoff
Counsel for Guam Cellular and Paging, Inc.
d/b/a Saipancell

Enclosures

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